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April 2, 2003

Kenneth Blodgett
Surface Transportation Board
Case Control Unit
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Re: STB Finance Docket No. 30186 (Sub-No. 3)

Dear Kenneth,

I am writing in response to your request for information on plant and animal species of concern in the vicinity of the Tongue River III Western Alignment. We checked our databases for information in this general area and have enclosed 10 species of concern reports, one map and explanatory material. Since I was unable to determine a precise location for the project, I compensated for the uncertainty by using the Tongue River between Birney and Decker as the search location and set the buffer distance at five miles to make sure the project was included.

Please keep in mind the following when using and interpreting the enclosed information and maps:

- (1) These materials are the result of a search of our database for species of concern that occur in an area defined by the requested location with an additional five-mile buffer surrounding the requested area. This is done to provide you with a more inclusive set of records and to capture records that may be immediately adjacent to the requested area.
- (2) In the report, the term "precision" reflects the quality of the location information. S (second) precision is used when the location of the collection/observation is known within a three-second radius (approximately 10 acres); M (minute) precision is used when the location of the collection /observation is known within a one minute radius (approximately 1.5 miles); and G (general) precision is used when the location of the record/collection is known within a 5 mile radius or to a place name only. Some species locations outside the selection area have imprecisely-known locations and may actually occur within the selection area.
- (3) Location information for animals represents occupied breeding habitat; location information for plants represents known occurrences of plant species, and, like animals, has an implied range that may not be fully conveyed by the mapped data. Most locations are depicted as points, but some, especially those that cover large area, are depicted as polygons on the map. The approximate boundaries of these polygons are color-coded to help differentiate vertebrate classes and plants.
- (4) This report may include sensitive data, and is not intended for general distribution, publication or for use outside of your agency. In particular, public release of specific location information may jeopardize the welfare of threatened, endangered, or sensitive species or communities.
- (5) The accompanying map(s) display management status, which may differ from ownership. Also, this report may include data from privately owned lands, and approval by the landowner is advisable if specific location information is considered for distribution. Features shown on this map do not imply public access to any lands.
- (6) Additional biological data for the search area(s) may be available from other sources. We suggest you contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for any additional information on threatened and endangered species (406-449-5225). Also,

significant gaps exist in the Heritage Program's fisheries data, and we suggest you contact the Montana Rivers Information System for information related to your area of interest (406-444-3345).

- (7) The results of a data search by the Montana Natural Heritage Program reflect the current status of our data collection efforts. These results are not intended as a final statement on sensitive species within a given area, or as a substitute for on-site surveys, which may be required for environmental assessments.

I hope the enclosed information is helpful to you. Please feel free to contact me at (406)-444-3290 or via my e-mail address, below, should you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,



Martin P. Miller, Data Assistant
Montana Natural Heritage Program
(martinm@state.mt.us)

4/2/2003

Montana Natural Heritage Program
Species of Concern
Tongue River III, Western Alignment

Scientific Name: HALIAEETUS LEUCOCEPHALUS

Common Name: BALD EAGLE

Forest Service Status: THREATENED

Global Rank: G4

USFWS Endangered Species Act: (PS:LT,PDL)

State Rank: S3B,S3N

BLM Status: SPECIAL STATUS

Occurrence Type:

Species occurrence data:

STATUS: CURRENT. THE MONTANA BALD EAGLE WORKING GROUP (BEWG) ANNUALLY SURVEYS AND COLLECTS DATA ON NEST SITES. CONTACT BEWG COORDINATOR DENNIS FLATH OF MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS (406-994-6354) FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THIS OCCURRENCE.

Last observation: 1999

Size (acres):

General site description:

NEST SITE AND TERRITORY.

Land owner/manager:

PRIVATELY OWNED LAND (INDIVIDUAL OR CORPORATE); BLM: MILES CITY FIELD OFFICE

Comments:

Information source:

FLATH, D. 2000. [MEMO LISTING LOCATION OF BALD EAGLE NESTS AS OF AUGUST, 1999.] UNPUBLISHED REPORT. 11PP.

Survey site name: TONGUE

County: ROSEBUD

USGS quadrangle: SPRING GULCH

Precision: M

Elevation (ft): 3250

Location:

ALONG THE TONGUE RIVER, CA. 12 MILES SOUTHWEST OF BIRNEY.

Township\Range:

007S041E

Section:

14

TRS comments:

4/2/2003

Montana Natural Heritage Program
Species of Concern
Tongue River III, Western Alignment

Scientific Name: HALIAEETUS LEUCOCEPHALUS

Common Name: BALD EAGLE

Forest Service Status: THREATENED

Global Rank: G4

USFWS Endangered Species Act: (PS:LT,PDL)

State Rank: S3B,S3N

BLM Status: SPECIAL STATUS

Occurrence Type:

Species occurrence data:

STATUS: CURRENT. THE MONTANA BALD EAGLE WORKING GROUP (BEWG) ANNUALLY SURVEYS AND COLLECTS DATA ON NEST SITES. CONTACT BEWG COORDINATOR DENNIS FLATH OF MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS (406-994-6354) FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THIS OCCURRENCE.

Last observation: 1999

Size (acres):

General site description:

Land owner/manager:

PRIVATELY OWNED LAND (INDIVIDUAL OR CORPORATE)

Comments:

Information source:

FLATH, D. 2000. [MEMO LISTING LOCATION OF BALD EAGLE NESTS AS OF AUGUST, 1999.] UNPUBLISHED REPORT. 11PP.

Survey site name: MULLER RANCH

County: BIG HORN

USGS quadrangle: DECKER

Precision: M

Elevation (ft): 3440

Location:

ABOUT 1.5 MILES EAST OF DECKER ALONG THE TONGUE RIVER.

Township\Range:

009S040E

Section:

28

TRS comments:

4/2/2003

Montana Natural Heritage Program
Species of Concern
Tongue River III, Western Alignment

Scientific Name: CHELYDRA SERPENTINA

Common Name: SNAPPING TURTLE

Global Rank: G5

State Rank: S3

Forest Service Status:

USFWS Endangered Species Act:

BLM Status: SPECIAL STATUS

Occurrence Type:

Species occurrence data:

Last observation: 1979-09-02

Size (acres): 0

General site description:

Land owner/manager:

PRIVATELY OWNED LAND (INDIVIDUAL OR CORPORATE)

Comments:

Information source:

ZOOLOGIST, MONTANA NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM, 1515 EAST SIXTH AVENUE, P.O. BOX 210800,
HELENA, MT 59620-1800. 406/444-3009.

Survey site name: BIRNEY

County: ROSEBUD

USGS quadrangle: BIRNEY

Precision: M

Elevation (ft): 3000

Location:

GO TO BIRNEY VIA LIGHT-DUTY ROAD. SITE IS ON TONGUE RIVER NEAR BIRNEY.

Township\Range:

006S043E

Section:

7

TRS comments:

SE4SW4

4/2/2003

Montana Natural Heritage Program
Species of Concern
Tongue River III, Western Alignment

Scientific Name: TRIONYX SPINIFERUS

Common Name: SPINY SOFTSHELL

Global Rank: G5

State Rank: S3

Forest Service Status:

USFWS Endangered Species Act:

BLM Status: SPECIAL STATUS

Occurrence Type:

Species occurrence data:

SINCE 1970: 4 REPORTS ON THE YELLOWSTONE, 5 REPORTS ON THE TONGUE AND ONE ON THE POWDER.
THE BOUNDARIES FOR THIS OCCURRENCE ENCOMPASS ALL REPORTED OBSERVATIONS IN THE
YELLOWSTONE RIVER DRAINAGE. SPECIFIC OBSERVATION DATA AVAILABLE FROM MTNHP.

Last observation: 1997

Size (acres): 0

General site description:

LARGE RIVERS AND THEIR SANDY BANKS (UP TO 50 METERS FROM WATER - USED FOR NESTING).

Land owner/manager:

BLM: MILES CITY FIELD OFFICE; BLM: BILLINGS FIELD OFFICE; BLM: MILES CITY FIELD OFFICE; PRIVATELY
OWNED LAND (INDIVIDUAL OR CORPORATE); STATE TRUST LAND

Comments:

NOTE 3 HISTORIC REPORTS FROM THE BIG HORN RIVER DRAINAGE, AROUND CROW AGENCY.

Information source:

ZOOLOGIST, MONTANA NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM, 1515 EAST SIXTH AVENUE, P.O. BOX 210800,
HELENA, MT 59620-1800. 406/444-3009.

Survey site name: YELLOWSTONE RIVER DRAINAGE

County: ROSEBUD; DAWSON; PRAIRIE; CUSTER; BIG HORN; TREASURE; YELLOWSTONE

USGS quadrangle: (EXTENDS OVER NUMEROUS QUADS)

Precision: G

Elevation (ft): 1980

Location:

THE YELLOWSTONE RIVER BETWEEN BILLINGS AND INTAKE, PLUS THE TONGUE RIVER AND THE FIRST
FEW MILES OF THE POWDER RIVER.

Township\Range:

006N039E

Section:

17

TRS comments:

CENTRUM - MANY ADDITIONAL TOWNSHIPS

4/2/2003

Montana Natural Heritage Program
Species of Concern
Tongue River III, Western Alignment

Scientific Name: LOMATIUM NUTTALLII

Common Name: NUTTALL DESERT-PARSLEY

Forest Service Status:

Global Rank: G3

USFWS Endangered Species Act:

State Rank: S1

BLM Status: WATCH

Occurrence Type:

Species occurrence data:

UNCOMMON.

Last observation: 1980-07-18

Size (acres):

General site description:

SHALLOW, ROCKY SOIL OF A SANDSTONE CLIFF WITH AGROPYRON SPICATUM, PINUS PONDERSOA,
JUNIPERUS SCOPULORUM.

Land owner/manager:

PRIVATELY OWNED LAND (INDIVIDUAL OR CORPORATE); NORTHERN CHEYENNE INDIAN RESERVATION; STATE
TRUST LAND

Comments:

LABEL INFORMATION GIVE LOCATION AS "5 KM NORTH OF DECKER;" OCCURRENCE MAPPED CA. 1 MILE NORTH
OF DECKER BASED ON OTHER LOCATION INFORMATION.

Information source:

LESICA, P., P. HUSBY, AND S. V. COOPER. 1999. NOTEWORTHY COLLECTIONS: MONTANA. MADRONO
45:328-330.

Survey site name: SQUIRREL CREEK DRAINAGE

County: BIG HORN

USGS quadrangle: DECKER

Precision: M

Elevation (ft): 3600

Location:

SQUIRREL CREEK DRAINAGE, CA. 1 MILE NORTH OF DECKER.

Township\Range:

009S040E

Section:

20

TRS comments:

4/2/2003

Montana Natural Heritage Program
Species of Concern
Tongue River III, Western Alignment

Scientific Name: PHYSARIA DIDYMOCARPA VAR LANATA

Common Name: WOOLLY TWINPOD

Forest Service Status:

Global Rank: G5T2

USFWS Endangered Species Act:

State Rank: S1

BLM Status:

Occurrence Type:

Species occurrence data:

Last observation: 2001-06-20

Size (acres): 0.01

General site description:

SOUTHWEST-FACING SLOPE OF REDBED SHALE AND SAND EAST OF CREEK. RED SHALE AND SAND SLOPE BELOW SANDSTONE OUTCROP. MODERATELY STEEP SLOPE. OPEN SLOPE OF PINUS PONDEROSA AND JUNIPERUS SCOPULORUM; BUNCH GRASSES AND SHRUBS ALSO COMMON. ASSOCIATED SPECIES INCLUDE PINUS PONDEROSA, JUNIPERUS SCOPULORUM; SHRUBS: YUCCA GLAUCA, RHUS TRILOBATA, ATRIPLEX CONFERTIFOLIA; GRASSES: AGROPYRON SPICATUM, STIPA COMATA, BOUTELOUA CURTIPENDULA; FORBS: GAURA COCCINEA, SPHAERALCEA COCCINEA, PSORALEA SP.

Land owner/manager:

BLM: MILES CITY FIELD OFFICE

Comments:

Information source:

TAYLOR, A. 2001. FIELD SURVEYS AND RESULTING DOCUMENTATION CONDUCTED AS PART OF MTNHP STUDY PROJECTS.

Survey site name: ZOOK CREEK

County: ROSEBUD

USGS quadrangle: BIRNEY

Precision: S

Elevation (ft): 3300

Location:

CA. 1.5 AIR MILES NW FROM BIRNEY; THROUGH "3" RANCH TO ZOOK CREEK (WITHIN BLM'S WILDERNESS STUDY AREA).

Township\Range:

006S042E

Section:

2

TRS comments:

NW4SW4; 3 NE4NW4

4/2/2003

Montana Natural Heritage Program
Species of Concern
Tongue River III, Western Alignment

Scientific Name: PHYSARIA DIDYMOCARPA VAR LANATA

Common Name: WOOLLY TWINPOD

Forest Service Status:

Global Rank: G5T2

USFWS Endangered Species Act:

State Rank: S1

BLM Status:

Occurrence Type:

Species occurrence data:

FAIRLY ABUNDANT; 16 INDIVIDUALS IN ONE AREA, OCCUPYING APPROXIMATELY 20 SQ. FEET.

Last observation: 2001-06-19

Size (acres): 0.0005

General site description:

SANDY, ROCKY, SOUTHWEST-FACING SLOPE OF ROADCUT, CLINKER-SHALE MIX, SPARSELY VEGETATED. SOUTHWEST-FACING SLOPE ADJACENT TO 2-TRACK ROAD. LOOSE, SANDY SHALE. DOMINATED BY GRASSES; INTERSPERSED WITH RHUS TRILOBATA AND ARTEMISIA CANA. ASSOCIATED SPECIES INCLUDE AGROPYRON SPICATUM, ARTEMISIA CANA, ARTEMISIA FRIGIDA; RHUS TRILOBATA, AND ERIOGONUM SP.

Land owner/manager:

PRIVATELY OWNED LAND (INDIVIDUAL OR CORPORATE)

Comments:

Information source:

TAYLOR, A. 2001. FIELD SURVEYS AND RESULTING DOCUMENTATION CONDUCTED AS PART OF MTNHP STUDY PROJECTS.

Survey site name: BULL CREEK

County: ROSEBUD

USGS quadrangle: BIRNEY SW

Precision: S

Elevation (ft): 3500

Location:

ALONG BULL CREEK CA. 7 AIR MILES WNW OF BIRNEY.

Township\Range:

006S041E

Section:

2

TRS comments:

S2SW4

4/2/2003

Montana Natural Heritage Program
Species of Concern
Tongue River III, Western Alignment

Scientific Name: PHYSARIA DIDYMOCARPA VAR LANATA

Common Name: WOOLLY TWINPOD

Global Rank: G5T2

State Rank: S1

Forest Service Status:

USFWS Endangered Species Act:

BLM Status:

Occurrence Type:

Species occurrence data:

19 INDIVIDUALS OCCUPYING APPROXIMATELY 100 SQUARE YARDS. 95% FRUITING, 5% VEGETATIVE.

Last observation: 2001-06-22

Size (acres): 0.02

General site description:

GENERALLY BARREN SANDSTONE OUTCROPS; CALCIUM CARBONATE PRESENT; SOUTH-FACING SLOPE. ROCKY MOUNTAIN JUNIPER ABOVE; RABBIT BRUSH AND SILVER SAGE ON SLOPE. SHRUBS DOMINATE: CHRYSOTHAMNUS NAUSEOSUS, ARTEMISIA CANA, RHUS TRILOBATA. ASSOCIATED SPECIES: PREVIOUSLY MENTIONED PLUS AGROPYRON SPICATUM.

Land owner/manager:

PRIVATELY OWNED LAND (INDIVIDUAL OR CORPORATE)

Comments:

Information source:

TAYLOR, A. 2001. FIELD SURVEYS AND RESULTING DOCUMENTATION CONDUCTED AS PART OF MTNHP STUDY PROJECTS.

Survey site name: CANYON CREEK

County: ROSEBUD

USGS quadrangle: BIRNEY SW

Precision: S

Elevation (ft): 3360

Location:

CANYON CREEK THROUGH BILL MCKINNEY'S GATES, CA. 11 AIR MILES SW OF BIRNEY TOWNSITE.

Township\Range:

007S041E

Section:

4

TRS comments:

NW4NE4

4/2/2003

Montana Natural Heritage Program
Species of Concern
Tongue River III, Western Alignment

Scientific Name: ASTRAGALUS BARRII

Common Name: BARR'S MILKVETCH

Global Rank: G3

State Rank: S3

Forest Service Status: SENSITIVE

USFWS Endangered Species Act:

BLM Status: WATCH

Occurrence Type:

Species occurrence data:

COMMON.

Last observation: 1983-06-18

Size (acres): 0

General site description:

BARREN CLAY SOIL ON RIDGETOP, WITH HAPLOPAPPUS ACAULIS AND ERIOGONUM PAUCIFLORUM.

Land owner/manager:

PRIVATELY OWNED LAND (INDIVIDUAL OR CORPORATE)

Comments:

Information source:

SCHASSBERGER, L. A. 1990. REPORT ON THE CONSERVATION STATUS OF ASTRAGALUS BARRII, A CANDIDATE THREATENED SPECIES. UNPUBLISHED REPORT TO THE U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE, DENVER. MONTANA NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM, HELENA, MT. 85 PP.

Survey site name: DECKER

County: BIG HORN

USGS quadrangle: PEARL SCHOOL

Precision: M

Elevation (ft): 3760

Location:

CA. 1 MI. SOUTH OF SQUIRREL CREEK AND 1/2 MI. WEST OF DECKER-SHERIDAN ROAD, ON THE CX RANCH.

Township\Range:

009S039E

Section:

25

TRS comments:

NE4

4/2/2003

Montana Natural Heritage Program
Species of Concern
Tongue River III, Western Alignment

Scientific Name: ASTRAGALUS BARRII

Common Name: BARR'S MILKVETCH

Forest Service Status: SENSITIVE

Global Rank: G3

USFWS Endangered Species Act:

State Rank: S3

BLM Status: WATCH

Occurrence Type:

Species occurrence data:

4 MAJOR MATS/CLUMPS (CA. 12 CM WIDE) ON KNOB. FRUTING WITH SOME REMNANT FLOWERS.

Last observation: 2001-06-22

Size (acres): 0

General site description:

PONDEROSA PINE - ROCKY MOUNTAIN JUNIPER; HILLS OF RED SHALE AND SANDSTONE, AND BADLANDS. NW-FACING KNOB OF BADLANDS, VERY SPARSELY VEGETATED. AN OCCASIONAL GREASEWOOD SHRUB, JUNIPER, OR PONDEROSA PINE; BLUEBUNCH WHEATGRASS PRESENT. ASSOCIATED SPECIES INCLUDE SARCOBATUS VERMICULATUS, PINUS PONDEROSA, JUNIPERUS SCOPULORUM, CRYPTANTHA SP., AGROPYRON SPICATUM; ASTRAGALUS GILVIFLORUS COMMON ON SAME HILLS.

Land owner/manager:

STATE TRUST LAND

Comments:

Information source:

TAYLOR, A. 2001. FIELD SURVEYS AND RESULTING DOCUMENTATION CONDUCTED AS PART OF MTNHP STUDY PROJECTS.

Survey site name: WHITTEN CREEK

County: ROSEBUD

USGS quadrangle: BIRNEY

Precision: S

Elevation (ft): 3400

Location:

CA. 2.5 AIR MILES SW OF BIRNEY; THROUGH QUARTER CIRCLE U RANCH, UP WHITTEN CREEK.

Township\Range:

006S042E

Section:

16

TRS comments:

NE4

Montana Natural Heritage Program

P.O. Box 201800
1515 East Sixth Avenue
Helena, Montana 59620-1800
(406) 444-3009
<http://nris.state.mt.us>

Explanation of Element Occurrence Reports

Since 1985, the Montana Natural Heritage Program (MTNHP) has been compiling and maintaining an inventory of the elements of biological diversity in Montana. This inventory includes plant species, animal species, plant communities, and other biological features that are rare, endemic, disjunct, threatened or endangered throughout their range in Montana, vulnerable to extirpation from Montana, or in need of further research.

Individual species, communities, or biological features are referred to as "elements." An "element occurrence" generally falls in one of the following categories:

Plants: A documented location of a plant population. In some instances, adjacent, spatially separated clusters are considered subpopulations and are grouped as one occurrence (e.g., the subpopulations occur in ecologically similar habitats, and are within approximately one air mile of one another).

Animals with limited mobility (most invertebrates, amphibians, reptiles, small mammals, most fish): The location of a specimen collection or of a verified sighting; assumed to represent a breeding population. Additional collections or sightings are often appended to the original record.

Mobile or migratory animals (most birds and larger mammals, some fish): Breeding areas (including nesting territories, dens and leks) and significant aggregation sites (winter feeding areas, staging grounds, or hibernacula).

Communities: All contiguous, high-quality habitat as defined by physical and biological features.

Other: Significant biological features not included in the above categories, such as bird rookeries, peatlands, or state champion trees.



The quantity and quality of data contained in MTNHP reports is dependent on the research and observations of the many individuals and organizations who contribute information to the program.

Please keep in mind that the absence of information for an area does not mean the absence of significant biological features. Reports produced by the Montana Natural Heritage Program summarize information known to the program at the time of a request. These reports are not intended as a final statement on the elements or areas being considered, nor are they a substitute for on-site surveys which may be required for environmental assessments.

As a user of MTNHP, your contributions of data are essential to maintaining the accuracy of our data bases. New or updated location information for all species of special concern is always welcome.

We encourage you to visit our website at <http://nris.state.mt.us/mtnhp/>. On-line tools include species lists, an electronic version of *Montana Bird Distribution*, and search capabilities by county, management unit, or USGS 7.5' quadrangle. Also available is the *Montana Rare Plant Field Guide*, which contains photos, high-quality diagnostic illustrations, and supporting information for over 300 rare plant species in Montana.

Certain codes and abbreviations are used in element occurrence reports. Although many of these are very straightforward, the following explanations should answer most questions.

Global Rank and State Rank

Taxa are evaluated and ranked by MTNHP on the basis of their global (range-wide) status, and their state-wide status according to a standardized procedure.

For each level of distribution, global and state, species are assigned a numeric rank ranging from 1 (critically imperiled) to 5 (demonstrably secure). For example, Clustered lady's-slipper (*Cypripedium fasciculatum*) is ranked G4 S2. That is, globally the species is apparently secure, while in Montana it is imperiled because of rarity, or because of other factors making it demonstrably vulnerable to extirpation.

Rank Definition

- 1 Critically imperiled because of extreme rarity, or because of some factor of its biology making it especially vulnerable to extirpation.
 - 2 Imperiled because of rarity, or because of other factors demonstrably making it very vulnerable to extinction throughout its range.
 - 3 Vulnerable because of rarity, or found in a restricted range even though it may be abundant at some of its locations.
 - 4 Apparently secure, though it may be quite rare in parts of its range, especially at the periphery.
 - 5 Demonstrably secure, though it may be quite rare in parts of its range, especially at the periphery.
- U Possibly in peril but status uncertain; more information needed.
- H Historical, known only from records over 50 years ago; may be rediscovered.
- X Believed to be extinct; historical records only.

Other Global and State Rank codes:

- T Rank for a subspecies or variety; appended to the global rank for the full species, e.g., G4T3.
- Q Taxonomic questions or problems involved; more information needed.
- ? Inexact or uncertain.
- Z Ranking not applicable.
- A Accidental in the state. Includes species (usually birds or butterflies) recorded very infrequently, hundreds or thousands of miles outside their usual range.
- B A state rank modifier indicating breeding status for a migratory species. Example: S1B, SZN = breeding occurrences for the species are ranked S1 (critically imperiled) in the state; non-breeding occurrences are not ranked in the state.
- # A modifier to SX or SH: the species has been reintroduced but the population is not yet established.

U. S. Fish And Wildlife Service Endangered Species Act Status

Abbreviations indicate the categories defined in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Notice of Review and indicate the status of a taxon under the federal Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C.A. §1531-1543 (Supp. 1996)).

Note: the categories C2, 3B and 3C are no longer maintained by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (61 FR 7596, Feb. 28, 1996).

Current categories are:

- LE listed endangered
- LT listed threatened
- PE proposed endangered
- PT proposed threatened
- C candidate: Substantial information exists in U.S. Fish and Wildlife files on biological vulnerability to support

proposals to list as threatened or endangered.

- NL not listed or no designation (see below)
 XN non-essential experimental population

A species can have more than one federal designation if the species' status varies within its range. In these instances, the Montana designation is listed first. Example: LElt = species is listed as endangered in Montana; elsewhere in its range it is listed as threatened.

U.S. Forest Service Status

The status of species on Forest Service lands as defined by the U.S. Forest Service manual (2670.22). These taxa are listed as such by the Regional Forester (Northern Region) on National Forests in Montana. Species are listed as:

T/E/P listed as Threatened (LT) or Endangered (LE) under the Endangered Species Act or proposed for listing (P), and known or suspected to occur on national forests.

S sensitive species, subspecies or variety, for which the Regional Forester has determined there is a concern for population viability rangewide or in the region.

Bureau of Land Management Status

The status of species on Bureau of Land Management land is defined by the BLM 6840 manual and designated by the Montana State Office of the BLM in 1996:

S sensitive species: proven to be imperiled in at least part of its range and documented to occur on BLM lands.

W watch species: either known to be imperiled and suspected to occur on BLM lands, suspected to be imperiled and documented on BLM lands, or needing further study for other reasons.

Other terms that may be used in this report

USGS quadrangle - Name of the 7.5-minute USGS topographic map(s) where the population is located.

Township, range, section, TRS comments - legal description of the centroid of the population and, if known, additional townships or sections. TRS locators may be based on unsurveyed townships; in such cases, the locators are derived from U. S. Forest Service visitor maps or from BLM surface management status maps. This is done for convenience in describing species locations; the information does not necessarily indicate legal boundaries.

Precision - the level of location accuracy of the record.

S = accuracy of location is within an area of approximately 10 acres

M = accuracy of location is within a radius of approximately 1.5 miles

G = location is a place-name only, or within a radius of approximately 5 square miles.

Last observation: date the element was last observed extant at the site (not necessarily the date the site was last visited).

Land Owner/manager - the ownership or management of the land on which the element occurs. Areas are generally listed from smallest to largest. In most instances, this information is derived from U.S. Forest Service visitor maps or from BLM surface management status maps.

Please remember that this report is a summary of information. Additional data are available on most sites and species

If you have questions or need further assistance, please contact us either by phone at (406/444-0914), e-mail (mtnhp@nris.state.mt.us) or at the mailing address shown on the first page.